

COMPOST IN PASTURE



Premium Compost right here in the Goulburn Valley

Get the Back 2 Earth Edge

Incorporate into the soil
or as a mulch

ARE YOU LOOKING TO

- Reduce input costs (fertiliser, herbicides, pesticides and water)
- Increase nutrient availability and soil fertility
- Suppress weed germination and growth
- Improve soil structure, soil organic matter and carbon levels
- Conserve moisture and improve water infiltration
- Increase plant health and long-term sustainability

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Grazing and dairy operations across Australia are faced with an extremely variable climate, raising input costs, erosion and weeds, along with pests and diseases. Addressing these challenges is possible, and it starts with compost.

According to The Regional Institute,¹ compost can hold 10 times its weight in water, and this highlights the benefit of using compost in pasture systems on the driest continent in the world.

A growing number of trials and research is proving compost can play a key role in long-term sustainable pasture-based systems.

Monaro Lovegrass Trial²

Trials conducted by Australian Soil Management (ASM) in the Cooma-Canberra corridor using compost and grazing management practices to control Monaro lovegrass produced successful results. Trial applications were 0, 3 and 5 tonne/Ha of compost blend, results included -

- 50% reduction in Monaro lovegrass during the 2 years the trial was conducted
- Increase in pasture variety / diversity, including the return of native grasses
- Significant increase in organic matter
- An increase of at least 5 fold in Phosphorous across all trial sites
- An increase of over 50% in Nitrogen across trial sites



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Dairy Farm - Simpson, Vic³

A case study of a dairy farm in Simpson, Victoria found while achieving industry targets, the owners were constantly resowing pastures and struggled to grow enough grass for winter. The property owners began using compost in late 2009, and by 2012 were using very little synthetic fertiliser, along with achieving:

- Increased plant root depth
- Reducing re-sowing of pastures, saving them \$20,000 a year
- Reducing their Nitrogen use by more than half, saving between \$80,000 - \$100,000 per year on synthetic fertilisers
- Increased microbial activity
- Reduced Nitrogen run-off
- Increase in herd size by 50 cows
- Turned their waste into a valuable resource
- A very low carbon footprint



Gippsland Trials⁴

Both a dairy and cattle grazing farm were selected for an extension project funded by the National Landcare Program. The projected trialled surface and subsurface compost application against deep ripping and a control of no treatment. Surface application of compost at 10 tonne/ha proved to be most effective, within 2 years producing:

- Significantly higher pasture yields
- Less bare ground compared to the control and subsurface
- Improved Cation Exchange Capacity
- Increased nutrient availability

After 4 years visual improvements included:

- Huge difference in productivity
- Better paddocks with balanced pasture
- Fewer weeds, more clover

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The Role of Biology

When plants are photosynthesising they leak exudates (carbohydrates) into the soil, these exudates feed the life in the soil (bacteria and fungi etc) and in exchange for these exudates the soil microbes gather nutrients for the plant. Biologically diverse soils create a healthy environment, producing healthier plants better able to cope with the pressures from frost, heat, pests and diseases. Compost not only provides a source of microbes, but it also feeds your underground workforce, building soil organic matter, therefore soil carbon, and ultimately improving water retention to create more resilient soils for long-term soil and plant health.



Quality compost contains microbes such as bacteria, fungi and protozoa, along with microorganisms such as mites, centipedes and worms. Compost helps regulate soil temperature, increases water infiltration and helps soil retain moisture.

Sample Analysis

Sample analysis with EAL (Environmental Analysis Laboratory)

Back 2 Earth Compost;

- Meets the Australian AS4454 standards for compost
- Compost is safely below the contaminants guidelines and is safe to use on farm
- Contains good organic matter and humus levels, which will help stabilise soils, stimulate biology and improve water-holding capacity
- Contains a full spectrum of macro and micro nutrients to promote plant growth
- Average Nitrogen content **1.29%** - well above the AS4454 guideline of 0.8%
- Average Estimated Organic Matter content - **27.8%**

Why Back 2 Earth Composting

Back 2 Earth Composting is located in Kotupna in northern Victoria. Our family business produces premium horticulture / agricultural grade composts on our organic farm.

Our thorough composting procedure and monitoring ensure the minimal likelihood of weeds and contamination, delivering a consistent quality compost to improve the health of your most important asset – your soil.

We are passionate about soil health and agriculture, recycling organic materials and green waste to build sustainable food production systems and viable family farms.

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References

1. The Regional Institute - A long-term study into compost applications for broadacre cropping
<http://www.regional.org.au/au/asa/2003/c/13/stokes.htm>
2. Monaro Lovegrass Project, NSW Environmental Protection Authority - March 2018 www.epa.nsw.gov.au
3. Compost for dairies - a case study from Whitings, Simpson Vic. Compost For Soils 2012.
www.compostforsoils.com.au
4. Case study on use of compost for pasture growth & species composition. Nayook and Neerim farms 2017.
www.wpcn.org.au
5. For More Forage, Improved Soil and a Better Future - Just Spread Compost

CONTACT US

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PRODUCTS

**Premium Horticulture Grade
Compost**

\$44 / m³ (inc GST)

Fungi Power Compost

(25% compost 75% wood)

\$15 / m³ (inc GST)

